



## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

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The Sumter community has a storied past filled with prominent historical figures and events that have helped to shape the community we are today. It is important to understand who we are and where we come from in order to determine what our community values. This understanding can help guide future growth and development that preserves and promotes the places, things and events that are uniquely Sumter.

The purpose of the Cultural and Historic Resources Element is to identify those buildings, places and events that are community priorities and to develop goals, objectives and policies that will allow community decision makers to promote and protect those resources while working towards positive community redevelopment and new development.

In order to protect and preserve the community's historic and cultural resources, organizations such as the Sumter County Historical Commission, the City of Sumter's Historic Preservation Design Review Committee, and the Sumter County Cultural Commission all work with local decision makers to take measures that protect and promote Sumter's resources.

A comprehensive evaluation and understanding of the historic buildings, neighborhoods, districts, archeological sites, public places and cultural events that the Sumter community values is vitally important when evaluating land-use and development decisions that impact the future of Sumter. To understand where we are as a community today, we must first acknowledge where Sumter started and how that has shaped our physical identity.

### HISTORIC RESOURCES

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#### Sumter County History

Sumter County has a rich historical and cultural heritage that is linked to major events in South Carolina and the United States history. In addition to its Revolutionary War link to General Thomas Sumter, Sumter County has the unique distinction of being the location of the last significant fighting in the Civil War in South Carolina. Sumter County has both historical and architectural qualities which are unique, and a cultural legacy that should be preserved and protected for future generations.

What is today known as the City of Sumter is one of South Carolina's older midlands backcountry settlements that came into being during the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Sumter grew in size and importance as a commercial center in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, serving as a trade and transport center for the surrounding farms and plantations. It also played an



important role in the development of the railroad system in South Carolina. The Wilmington & Manchester Railroad passed directly through the town, linking the area with Columbia to the west and the port of Wilmington, NC to the northeast. As the town prospered and developed, many fine residential structures and commercial buildings were erected that still stand today. These structures provide a concrete link to Sumter's past.

While the City of Sumter is the County Seat, other municipalities and areas including Stateburg, Mayesville, and Pinewood are home to several locally significant historic properties and structures. Due to Sumter County's rich architectural heritage, our community is home to three National Register of Historic Places Historic Districts and several individual properties listed on the National Register.

### **National Register of Historic Places**

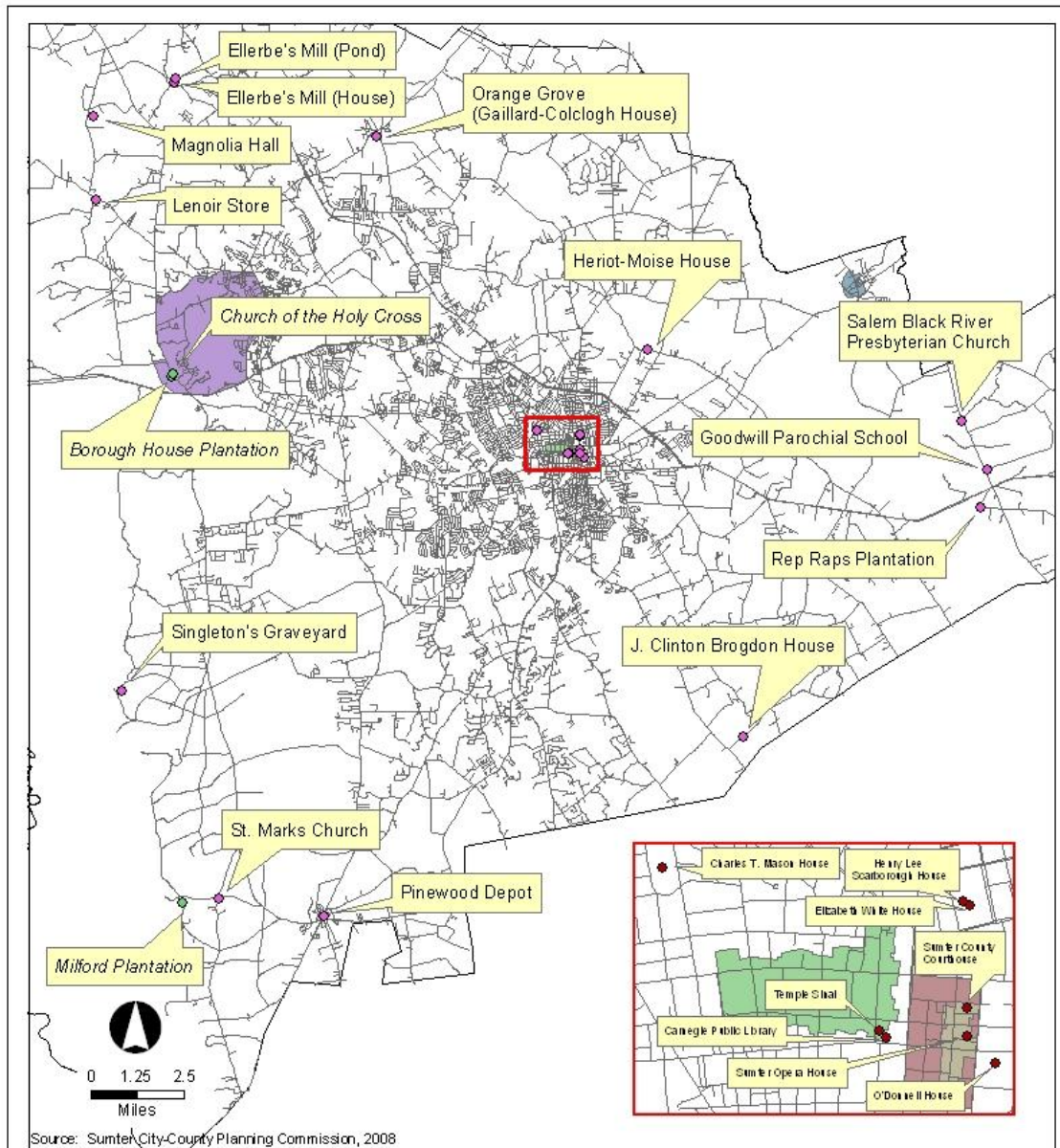
The state of South Carolina has over 1,300 listings in the National Register of Historic Places. The listings include buildings, sites and 160 historic districts. The National Register of Historic Places is a list of properties significant in our nation's past. The list is maintained by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. Properties are added to the list by nominations submitted by citizens nationwide through State Historic Preservation Offices.

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Currently there are fewer than 2,500 historic places that bear this designation.



*Millford Plantation*

The Sumter community is home to over 27 buildings and sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, three National Register Historic Districts—Stateburg, Mayesville, and Downtown Sumter; and three National Historic Landmark properties—Borough House in Stateburg; Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg; and Millford Plantation located in the vicinity of Pinewood. The City of Sumter also has one locally designated residential historic district known as Hampton Park.



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Figure #  
Sumter County National  
Register Properties



Last Revised: January, 2009





## Historic Preservation Organizational Resources

Sumter County Government sponsors two entities committed to historic preservation—the Sumter County Historical Commission and the Sumter County Museum. In addition to these two entities, the City of Sumter utilizes the Historic Preservation Design Review Committee, a standing Board responsible for reviewing and approving exterior designs for new construction and exterior changes to existing buildings in the City’s two designated historic districts.

The Sumter County Historical Commission’s mission is to encourage the study and transmission of the history of Sumter County and to identify and protect its historic resources. The Commission is actively involved in several activities related to historic education and tourism as well as supporting efforts to clear and preserve old cemeteries in the county. In addition, the Commission is the coordinating agency for the state historical markers program. The Commission is responsible for erecting and maintaining the markers. The Historical Commission also has designated a standing Historic Preservation Committee. The Preservation Committee is responsible for establishing links with the State Historic Preservation Office, developing review requirements making historic preservation/cultural impact studies part of the development process, and developing a historic preservation plan for Sumter County.

The Sumter County Museum was organized by the Sumter County Historical Society in 1972. Its mission is to promote the history of Old Sumter District through the preservation and exhibition of objects, manuscripts, and documents, which relate the story of this area of South Carolina. The museum complex consists of 14 buildings, including the Williams-Brice House, the Old Carnegie Public Library, and the Carolina Backcountry Homestead. The Sumter Genealogical and Historical Research Center is located in the Carnegie Public Library building.

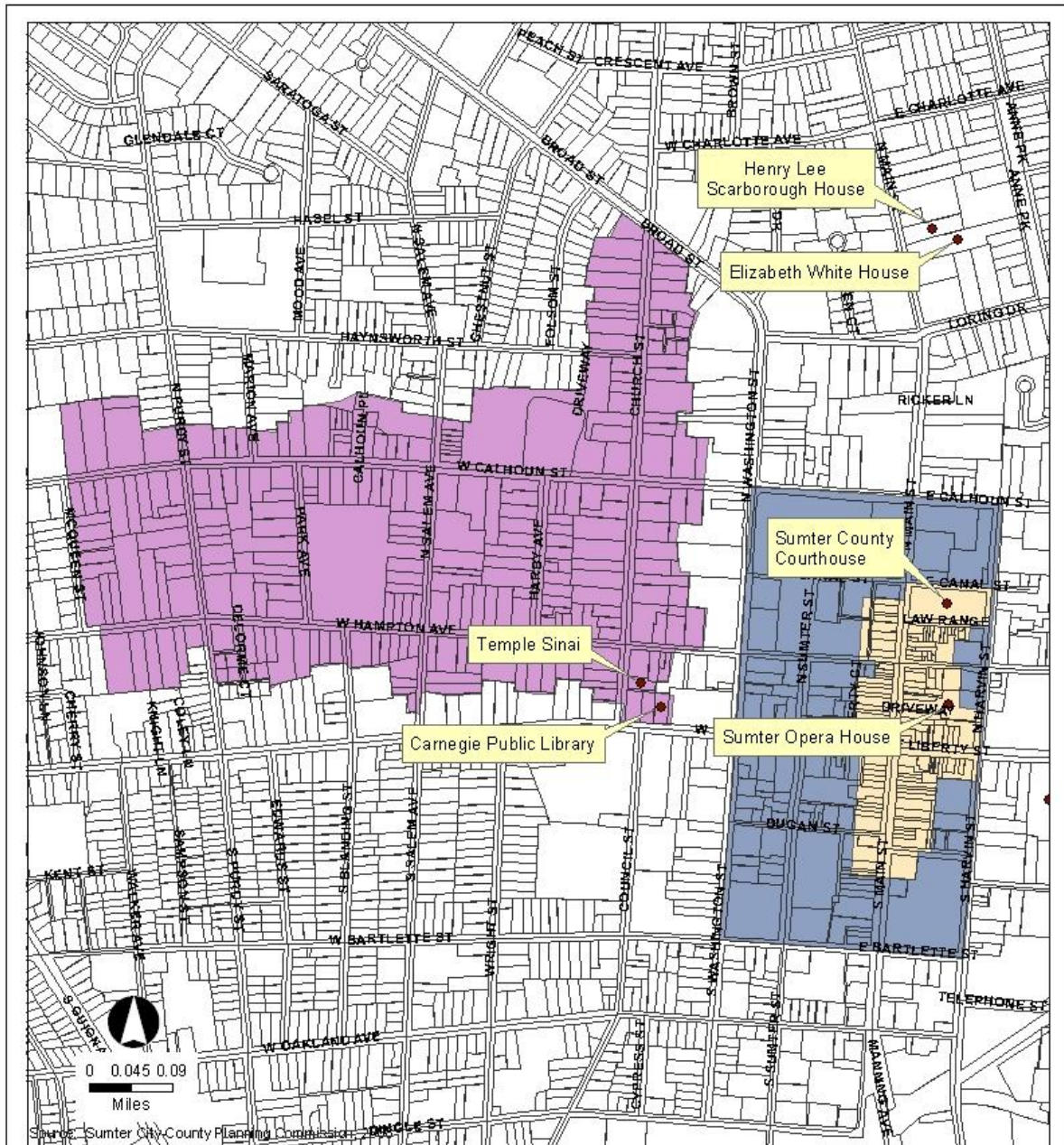
## *EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT*

### **City of Sumter Historic Districts: Hampton Park, the Downtown, and Beyond**

Established by Sumter City Council in January 1979, the Hampton Park Historic District is Sumter’s only local, primarily residential historic district. The Hampton Park Historic District is approximately 120 acres in size and encompasses more than six city blocks. It contains 268 individual parcels and is defined geographically by Church St. to the east, Hampton Ave. to the south, McQueen St. to the west and Calhoun St. to the north.

The City of Sumter’s Downtown Central Business District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district in 1975. The Downtown Historic





City of Sumter, South Carolina | Comprehensive Plan  
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Figure #  
Downtown Historic Districts



Last Revised: January, 2009





District is approximately 35 acres in size and is centered on Main St. between Canal and Caldwell Streets, extending less than one block to the east and west of Main St. Although only a select portion of the Downtown has been included in the National Register Historic District, the entire extent of the Central Business District has been included in the City's Historic Preservation Design Review District overlay.

Both Hampton Park Historic District and The Downtown Historic District have been included in the City of Sumter Historic Preservation Design Review District overlay. The Hampton Park Design Review and Downtown Historic District overlay districts were created to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public by providing a mechanism for the identification, recognition, preservation, maintenance and enhancement of existing historic and architecturally valuable structures, properties, and neighborhoods. These places serve as a visible reminder of the social, cultural, economic, political and architectural history of the City and County of Sumter. In addition to the two designated districts, there are neighborhoods located at the core of the City that are host to more of Sumter's architectural history. Some of those structures predate what is currently protected by the City's historic design review overlay.

### *Hampton Park Historic District*



405 W. Calhoun St.





The Hampton Park Historic District neighborhood is historic by virtue of its collection of turn of the century residential structures of nearly every conceivable architectural style—Queen Anne, Victorian, Italianate, Craftsman, Mission, and Gothic to name a few. Historian Bruce Harvey wrote during the 1997 *Sumter Preservation Planning Project*, “Sumter contains a particularly rich mix of residential styles.”

The Hampton Park District is threatened today by a host of local and regional factors. The national real estate market, the local economy, permissive land use policies, absentee ownership, property neglect, suburban sprawl, perception of low quality schools and high crime rates are among many likely causes of the slow decline of Sumter’s only local residential historic district.

Issues that Impact the Hampton Park Historic District:

Although historically thought of as a single family residential district, the Hampton Park Historic District contains a diverse mix of land uses. Based on Spring 2008 field study of the District undertaken by members of the Planning Department Staff, existing land uses include six broad categories: (1) Businesses and Organizations; (2) Public and Civic; (3) Single-family Occupied; (4) Multi-family Occupied; (5) Vacant Properties; and (6) Vacant Lots.

An analysis of land use within the Hampton Park Historic District land use yields the following breakdown by land use:

Table HCR-1

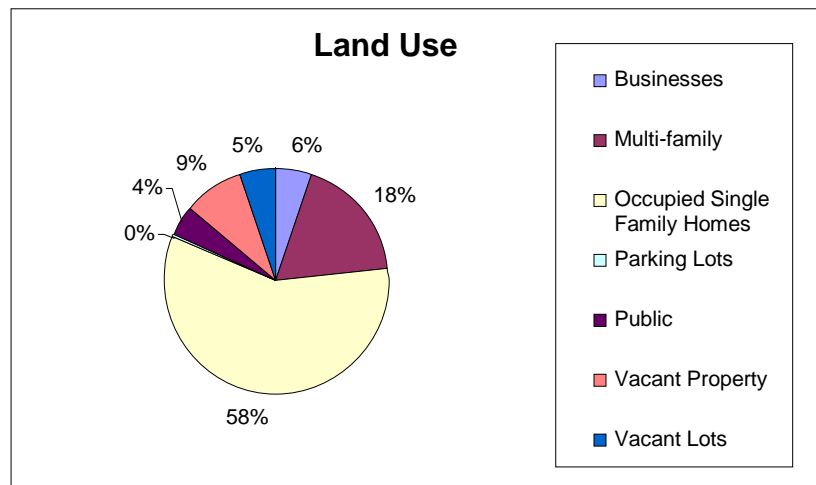
Land Use	Number of Parcel	Acreage
<b>Businesses/Organizations/etc.</b>	15	6.8202
<b>Multi-family</b>	48	11.1872
<b>Occupied Single-family</b>	155	69.0284
<b>Parking Lots</b>	1	0.1300
<b>Public &amp; Civic</b>	12	19.1185
<b>Vacant Properties</b>	23	9.2896
<b>Vacant Lots</b>	14	4.0883
<b>Totals</b>	268	119.6600

Source: Sumter City-County Planning Department

Understanding the state of this Historic District requires understanding how much acreage versus number of parcels are dedicated to specific uses. Key statistics that can be derived from the following chart help to crystallize the state of this district.



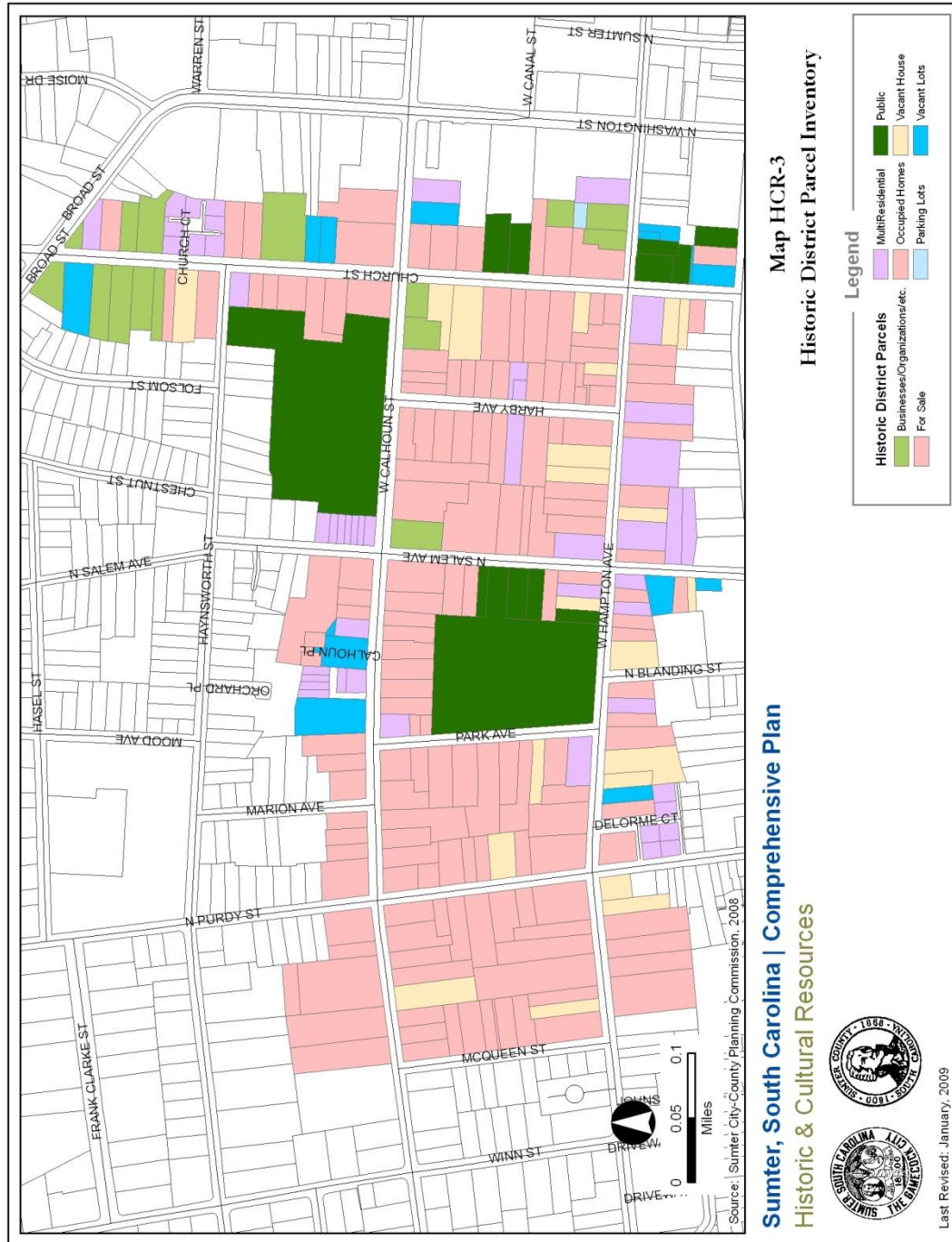
Figure HCR-1



Key Statistics:

1. Businesses and Organizations make up six percent (6%) of the total area of the District in terms of number of parcels and acreage;
2. The 48 Multi-family parcels in the District make up eighteen percent (18%) of the total parcels while only making up nine percent (9%) of the total acreage of the District;
3. The largest classification in all aspects is Occupied Single-family homes. Making up 155 parcels and just over 69 acres, this accounts for fifty-eight percent (58%) of the total properties and acreage.
4. Public and Civic uses, such as parks and churches, make up four percent (4%) of parcels while accounting for over sixteen percent (16%) of the total acreage for the Historic District;
5. 23 Historic District properties have vacant houses that have been empty or abandoned for a lengthy period of time. Nine percent (9%) of the total properties fall into this classification. Parcels with vacant houses total 9.3 acres or eight percent (8%) of the total area.
6. Five percent (5%) of the Historic District parcels are vacant lots. These 14 empty lots total 4.1 acres of land or three percent (3%) of the total acreage.







For the last two decades Sumter has grown in a westerly fashion, away from the downtown and towards Shaw A.F.B. and Columbia. This suburban development pattern has had a negative effect on the Hampton Park Historic District. With the westward expansion of new housing through the 1990s until today, more than half a dozen residential subdivisions totaling more than 5,400 residential lots have been approved west of downtown (over 8,000 units approved Countywide in this period). This westward expansion and loss of investment in Sumter's historic residential core has taken its toll on the state of this area. The virtually unlimited supply of land, permissive annexation policies, and unconstrained utility expansion have encouraged movement away from a more compact identifiable City form which in turn has made infill development less attractive in the older residential areas of the City such as the Hampton Park Historic District.

#### ***Downtown Central Business District Historic District***

The City of Sumter's political, commercial, and cultural development is reflected in the architecture of the central business district which spans a time period from 1828 to the present. Many of the buildings in the original commercial district date from 1880 to 1912 and are typical turn of the century commercial buildings. Much of the early architecture utilized materials such as pressed tin, limestone and brick as well as decorative elements including arches, columns, decorative brick work and dentil work.

This downtown district consisted of approximately 85 structures in 1975 when the district was placed on the National Register. Of those 85 structures, 21 were constructed from 1880-1912; many other structures can be tentatively dated in this period based on architectural style. For the most part the other structures in the district were constructed prior to the 1930s. Three structures can be dated prior to 1880—12 Law Range (1828); 101 N. Main St. (ca. 1868); and 3 S. Main St. (1862). By the 1970s many of the original facades on commercial buildings in the Central Business District were covered with more modern materials, obscuring the window openings and architectural details that characterized the district in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Downtown Historic District, like the Hampton Park Historic District, felt the effects of Sumter's westward expansion. With development and services moving to meet new residential demands to the west, the thriving downtown lost clientele to the many businesses that moved to Broad St. and Bultman Dr. to be closer to new residential development. The disinvestment in the downtown by consumers resulted in the slow degradation of a once thriving commercial district. Over the years the City has taken measures to help redevelop and promote the Downtown Historic District as a vital part of the Sumter Community.

As part of the Downtown development initiative, since 2001, over 35 building façade renovation/restoration projects have been completed. These façade projects have been



funded in part with Community Development Block Grant Funds via the Downtown Façade Grant Program. Façade grant monies have been made available to the areas identified as part of the Downtown National Register Historic District which does not include the entire Central Business District. As part of the redevelopment of Downtown, the City acquired derelict property along E. Liberty St. to make way for new infill development. As a result three new structures—XDOS, Clark Law Firm, and Sumter Board of Realtors—have been constructed within the Downtown, subject to design guidelines.

Because of its architectural and historic significance, the City of Sumter has been actively working towards architecturally sensitive infill development and building façade restoration and renovation throughout the Downtown Historic District through aggressive development initiatives. Ultimately the vitality and continued preservation of the Central Business District is linked to continued private investment and redevelopment in the Downtown to offer new niche market shopping, personal services, and entertainment.

#### ***1997 Sumter Preservation Planning Project***

In 1997 the City undertook an historic resources planning project that identified over 2000 parcels within the City that are over 50 years old and considered to be survey eligible; a map of these properties is shown on the following page. While Hampton Park and the Downtown were included in this project, the most significant outcome was the identification of properties in the vicinity of Oakland Ave. and Bartlette St. These streets are home to some of Sumter's oldest residential architecture that has yet to be catalogued. While no protection is in place for this and other historic residential areas within the City, these neighborhoods bear closer scrutiny with an eye to protecting more of Sumter's architectural heritage.

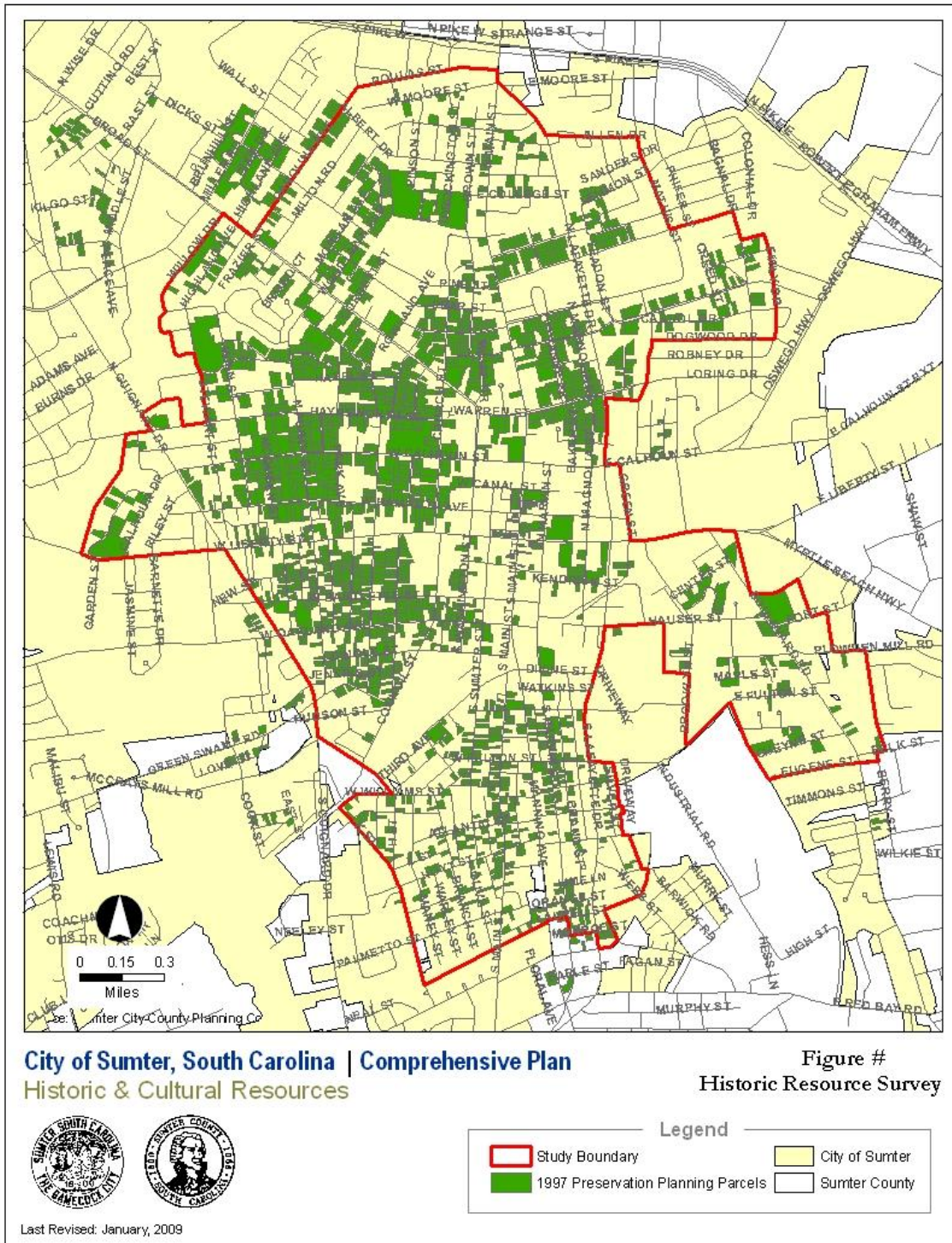
#### **Sumter County Historic Districts**

Although the City of Sumter is now the residential and commercial core for Sumter County, throughout the evolution of the County various locations have helped to shape our community. In addition to the historic districts within Sumter City Limits, there are two other National Register Historic Districts—Stateburg and Mayesville. Both of these areas played an important role in the development of the County and still retain some of the architecturally significant buildings and historically important places from Sumter County's history.

#### ***Stateburg Historic District***

Prior to its founding as a town in 1783, Stateburg was primarily the site of summer homes for families from the Low Country. A few individuals also settled there as early as 1735 via the nearby Kings Highway (S.C. Hwy. 261). Located twelve miles west of the City of Sumter in the "High Hills of the Santee" along S.C. Hwy 261 one mile north of U.S. Hwy. 76/378, the Stateburg Historic District was listed on the National Register on February 24, 1971.







Stateburg derives part of its historical significance from its connection with Revolutionary War General Thomas Sumter. Sumter founded Stateburg in 1783 in the hopes that it would be chosen as the new state capital. Stateburg missed this distinction by a few votes in 1786 when the Legislature voted to locate the new capital in Columbia. The enclave was the site of much Revolutionary War activity, and was occupied by Generals Cornwallis and Greene.

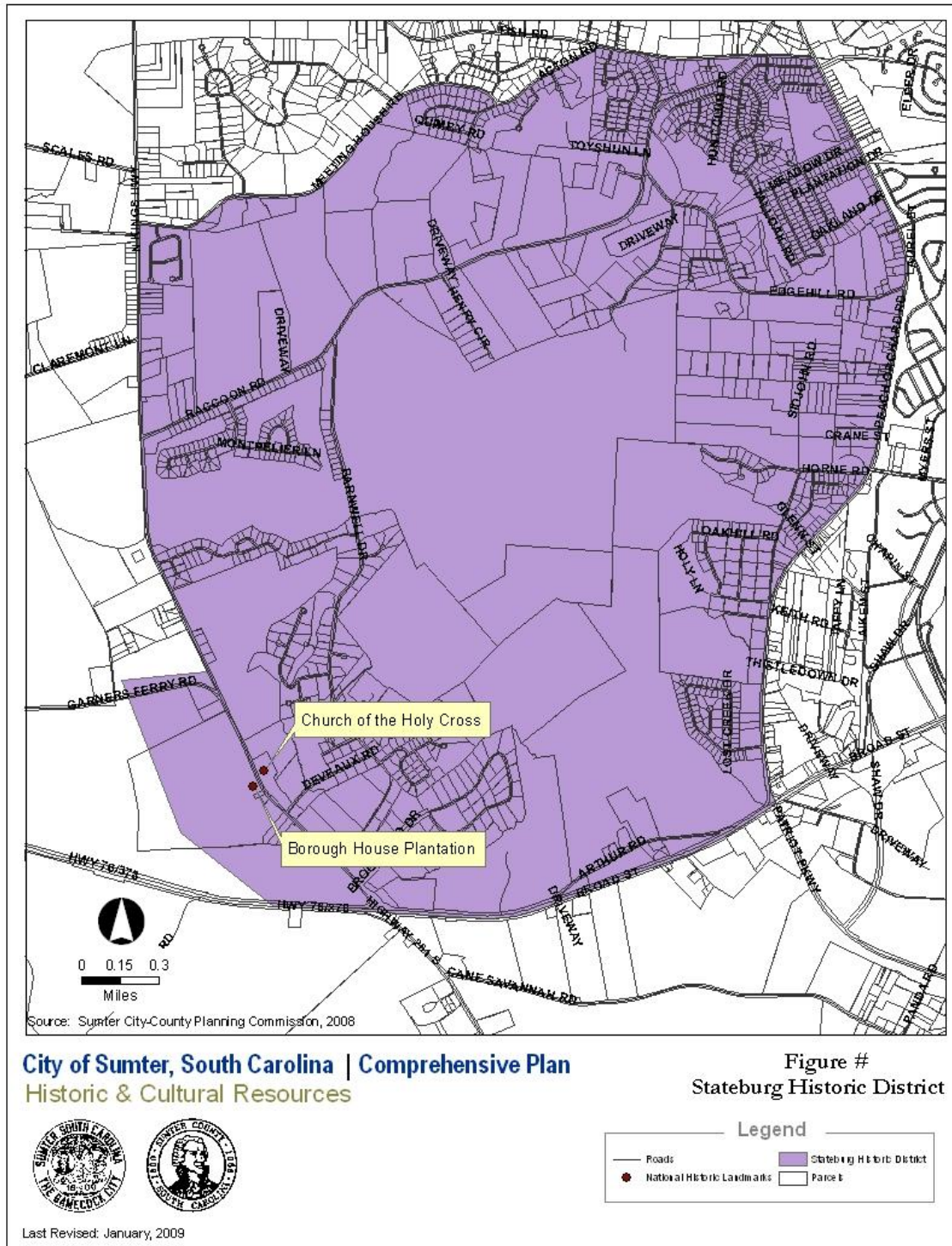
From 1783 until 1800 the town was the county seat for Claremont County, and until the Civil War, was thriving. Located on a hill crest overlooking the Wateree Valley, Stateburg had its own courthouse, post office, taverns, academy, race track and many stately homes. Stateburg developed into an important South Carolina Antebellum residential area.

Most of the structures that made up the Stateburg community were destroyed during the Civil War by Potter's Raiders. However, some buildings located a distance from public roads were spared. The eleven buildings and sites still standing today make up the core of the district. The Stateburg area holds significant recorded archeological sites related to Sumter County and South Carolina's history.

The eleven structures that make up the architectural fiber of the district are privately owned. With the exception of the Holy Cross Episcopal Church, the condition of these properties has not been verified since 1971 when the district was created. Each property has a unique story or association with prominent figures from Sumter County's history.

- *The Ruins* – owned by Gen. Thomas Sumter in 1784, from 1835 – 1837 served as Hawthorndean Seminary for Young Ladies. Structure retained original locks and keys, window panes, plaster moldings, marble baseboards, large double sliding doors, fan-shaped sky-light, many antiques and collectors' items.
- *Brookland Plantation* – built in the late 1700s by Gen. Thomas Sumter. Used as a rectory for Church of the Holy Cross in 1870s and as a private school for boys. Architecture is modified Greek Revival.
- *Moorhill* – Built in 1880 on the site of a much older house, the structure is a one and one-half story white clapboard house with four paneled columns across the front portico.









- *Tomb of Revolutionary General Thomas Sumter and the Private Chapel of Ease* built for his daughter in law, Natalie DeLage Sumter – A few miles outside of the Stateburg town limits is the grave of Gen. Thomas Sumter (1734-1832), famed partisan general known as the “Gamecock of the Revolution.” Near his grave stands the small Chapel of Ease built for his daughter in law, Countess Natalie DeLage (Sumter). DeLage, who is buried beneath the chapel, was a Catholic émigré from the French Revolution and a protégée of Aaron Burr. The tomb of Gen. Sumter remained unmarked for 71 years until 1907 when the South Carolina Legislature passed an appropriation for a simple monument. The site is now a South Carolina State Historical Park.
- *The Borough House* – still home to descendents of its early owners, built in 1758. This is one of the oldest homes in Sumter County. Architecturally interesting as it is the largest complex of buildings in the U.S. built of pisé de terre (rammed earth), a Spanish and French type of construction. The Center of the house may once have been a tavern. The home contains many rare books, portraits, and military mementos as well as fine furniture collected over seven generations. The grounds were the site of South Carolina’s first tree farm in the early 1900s.
- *Millwood Plantation* – built in 1840; the home was moved in sections from its original site in the town of Sumter. The house now occupies land granted to the family in the 1870s. The home has the original locks and keys, window panes, shutters, flooring, banister rails, many pieces of antique furniture. The structure is pine clapboard construction built in the cottage style.
- *Holy Cross Episcopal Church* – built in 1850 to serve the congregation founded in 1770. The sanctuary is constructed of yellow pisé de terre. Gothic Revival in design with a cruciform design, corner towers, pointed arches, red tiled roof like an Old World parish church. Inside the building has tiled floors; hand carved walnut woodwork, and stained glass windows.
- *High Hills Baptist Church* – Congregation founded in 1770; structure built in 1803. Greek Revival architecture with four paneled columns across the front, engaged columns at front corners. White clapboard with gable roof; four bays deep.
- *Marston* – built circa 1820. The brick and frame structure has unusually high ceilings, broad central hallways, spacious rooms, encircling piazzas on the ground and second floor. Many fine pre-Revolutionary pieces of furniture and heirlooms. The upper piazza view extends 30 miles.



- *Edgehill* – Alfred DeLorme rebuilt this home on the original foundation after a 1965 fire; authentic replica of the old house, The Oaks, built in 1832. Four original massive columns at the front of the present pink brick structure. Many valuable pieces of furniture lost in the fire were replaced or reproduced.
- *Miller or Ellison House* – built circa 1816, this home was owned by South Carolina Governor and U.S. Senator Stephen Miller in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; acquired in 1838 by William Ellison, a free black man who operated a cotton gin factory and plantation with 40 or 50 slaves. The house has hand-wrought hinges, handmade nails, wainscoting of wide single boards, small window panes and a narrow central hall.

Currently these properties are not open to the public. Unlike the historic districts within the City of Sumter, the Stateburg District is not protected by any additional zoning regulations aimed at preserving the exterior appearance of the structures within the District.

### ***Mayesville Historic District***

Named for Matthew Peterson Mayes, the town of Mayesville is located in the northeast corner of Sumter County in a predominantly agricultural area. Circa 1820 Mayes built his home in the southern portion of his father in law's plantation; it was around this home, which no longer stands, that the Town of Mayesville developed. The Mayesville Historic District was listed on the National Register on July 16, 1979. The district encompasses the western half of the town, shown on the map below, and contains a concentration of structures which represents a broad range of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century vernacular designs, including commercial, religious and residential examples.

The Mayesville Historic District is notable for its representation of the cultural, commercial, and architectural development of a small 19<sup>th</sup> century South Carolina community. During its early years the community was little more than a scattering of homes of the Mayes family. In 1852 the Mayes Station railroad depot was established when the Wilmington, Manchester, and Columbia Railroad extended to the Mayes Plantation. The advent of the railroad spurred the growth of Mayesville leading to the creation of a small commercial corridor focused around the rail lines. Following the end of the Civil War and prior to the town's incorporation in 1874, the Mayes plantation was subdivided into individual properties.

At the time of nomination to the National Register the District contained 80 historic structures/sites with no major intrusions or alterations to the fabric of the District. In addition to the 80 historic sites, there were approximately 11 sites with structures that were not survey eligible – many of which were constructed during and after the 1950s.







Like the Stateburg Historic District, the structures within the Mayesville District are under private ownership. Based on review of 2001 Ortho-photography using the Sumter County Geographic Information System (GIS), it appears that several of the structures listed in the 1979 National Register Nomination Form have been lost. Without undertaking field work to document the state of the district it is impossible to know its true condition. The Town of Mayesville is not under the jurisdiction of the Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance. Like the Town of Pinewood, Mayesville land use regulations are administered by the Town of Mayesville and not by the Sumter City-County Planning Department.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

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There is no doubt that Sumter is rich in cultural resources represented by the buildings, structures, and sites valued for their historic significance, but Sumter is also home to a community rich in the arts. The arts community is supported by countless private organizations as well as the Sumter County Cultural Commission and the Sumter County Museum of Art. Sumter County promotes the arts through financial support for the Sumter County Cultural Commission as well as the Museum of Art.

*Patriot Hall*



The Cultural Commission provides services to local arts organizations and artists, and information to the general public. It also maintains a community cultural calendar, offers a quarterly small grant program, provides artists-in-residence in local schools, and provides opportunities for creative expression in literature, play writing, film, the visual arts, and the performing arts. The Commission's mission is to promote, produce and provide financial support for cultural activities and arts programming for the benefit of the entire Sumter Community. Its primary focus is on celebrating the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of the community through art education, visual arts, literary arts and the performing arts. Through the Cultural Commission's leadership role in the Sumter area arts community it encourages partnerships and coalitions between Sumter area schools and arts related organizations for the life enrichment and education of all citizens regardless of social, cultural and economic standing.

Sumter's arts community is home to multiple public and private entities dedicated to the performing and visual arts. In addition to the City and County's facilities which are



available for cultural events, these organizations help to keep Sumter's cultural offerings diverse:

- The Center for Oral Narration, USC Sumter
- South Carolina Traditional Arts Network, USC Sumter
- Sumter County Cultural Center, 135-155 Haynsworth St.
- Sumter County Gallery of Art, 200 Hasel St.
- Sumter Artists Guild, 200 Hasel St.
- Sumter Little Theatre, 14 Mood Avenue
- Sumter Community Concert Band, P.O. Box 2564, Sumter, SC 29151
- Sumter Civic Chorale, P.O. Box 3157, Sumter, SC 29151
- Sumter Shaw Community Concert Association, 32 E. Calhoun St.
- Manning Avenue Free Studio, corner of Manning Avenue and Bee Street
- USC Sumter, 200 Miller Rd.
- Morris College Fine Arts Festival
- Iris Festival
- Amen Art Center, 426 Boulevard Road
- Sumter Civic Dance Company, c/o Freed School of the Performing Arts, 527 N. Guignard Dr.
- Rising Stars, c/o Miss Libby's School of Dance, 155 W. Wesmark Blvd.



### Historic & Cultural Resources Policies

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1. The City will consider opportunities to expand local, state or federal historic designations in the City of Sumter, including but not limited to Downtown Sumter, Hampton Park area, Anne Park area, and Oakland and Bartlette neighborhoods. These are areas of distinct architectural and historic relevance for the City of Sumter and are in danger due to blight, abandonment, and demolition by neglect.
2. Protection of existing historic resources within the City of Sumter is a top community priority. The City will continue to pursue the protection and enhancement of the established Hampton Park Neighborhood and surrounding residential areas through zoning enforcement, implementation of the City's property maintenance code, and stabilization of surrounding corridors.
3. The City and County will work with appropriate State and Local entities to identify and catalog additional historic and cultural resources within the community. This will include working toward identifying resources that may be available to protect and enhance National Register and National Historic Landmark properties in the County.
4. The City will review the residential development standards in the Zoning Ordinance for areas that conflict with implementing context sensitive infill in the historic residential areas. Any conflicting regulations should be modified or revised to support the continuing revitalization of these areas.
5. The City and County will consider impacts on historic and cultural amenities when evaluating land use applications and projects.